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Jobs Creation Key To Righting Economic Ship

LANSING – Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema issued the following statement today after the state Revenue Estimating Conference projected a \$920 million deficit for Michigan’s 2004 fiscal year budget:

“Our immediate goal is clear and we will work with Governor Granholm to eliminate this deficit. That is our job as lawmakers and we intend to do just that.

“But if Michigan is going to have a strong economy, one free from future deficits, then we have to address our current jobs situation and stanch the hemorrhaging that is bleeding our economy of good-paying jobs. Job losses in Michigan have accounted for nearly 25 percent of all jobs lost in the United States since October 2001.

“Spending cuts will be necessary as we look at all options to bring the budget back into balance. But in our efforts to do so, we cannot afford to sacrifice Michigan’s ability to compete for new business investment and future jobs creation. We will not be pennywise and pound foolish. While Senate Republicans will work with the governor in righting our economic ship, we remain committed to those policies and programs – both old and new – that will again make Michigan the economic engine driving our nation’s economy.”